(d) how many States are to be covered initially by this mobile court system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Government is considering the question of bringing in a legislation for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the intermediate Panchayat level. The proposed Gram Nyayalayas shall consist of a Nyayadhikari who shall be qualified to be eligible to be appointed as a Judicial Magistrate of the first class and belonging to a cadre of Nyayadhikaris constituted by the Governor in consultation with the State Public Service Commission and the Chief Justice of the High Court and two Lay Judges who shall be holding at least a Bachelors Degree and having experience in socially orinented activities for at least 5 years in the localities. The Gram Nyayalays would be holding the courts at their headquarters and also a Mobile court in the close proximity of the places where the parties ordinarily reside in their territorial jurisdiction. The Gram Nyayalayas will follow summary procedure and have a time bound plan of disposal of the civil and criminal cases coming before them. The manpower required for the proposed Gram Nyayalayas shall be in addition to the existing judicial officers of the subordinate judiciary.

(d) The proposed legislation will extend to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Enquiry into allegations of corruption in Judiciary

†543.DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering on the proposal for bringing in a new system for enquiring into allegations of corruption in Judicial system;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) by when the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Government proposes to set up a National Judicial Council which will receive complaints against the Judges and conduct investigation as to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

whether the complaint is frivolous, vexatious or is not made in good faith or whether there are sufficient grounds for investigation into the complaint.

(b) and (c) the modalities for setting up of the National Judicial Council, in consultation with all the stake holders, are being worked out.

Vacancies of Judges

544. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of Judges in various courts and the period of pendency of such vacancies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has given its recommendations to fill up the vacancies and the same is pending with Government;

(c) by when Government would clear the proposal for filling up of the vacancies. and

(d) the norms adopted for the selection and appointment of Judges, whether the selection will be based on merit coupled with fairness and objectivity instead of being influenced and carried away by the political considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A Statement is enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The recommendations of the Supreme Court to fill up the vacancies in different High Courts are being processed in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose.

(d) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. Judges are selected keeping in view their educational qualifications, nature and extent of practice, length of the practice, the field of specialization and professional income for the last three years. Besides this, the competence of the person, his judicial potential, temperament and integrity are also kept in mind at the time of appointment.